STAR WARS™

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REBEL BLOCKADE RUNNER

29

TANTIVE IV

Princess Leia's Corellian corvette

Rebel leader Bail Organa

Peaceful Alderaan

DeAGOSTINI

LUCAS BOOKS

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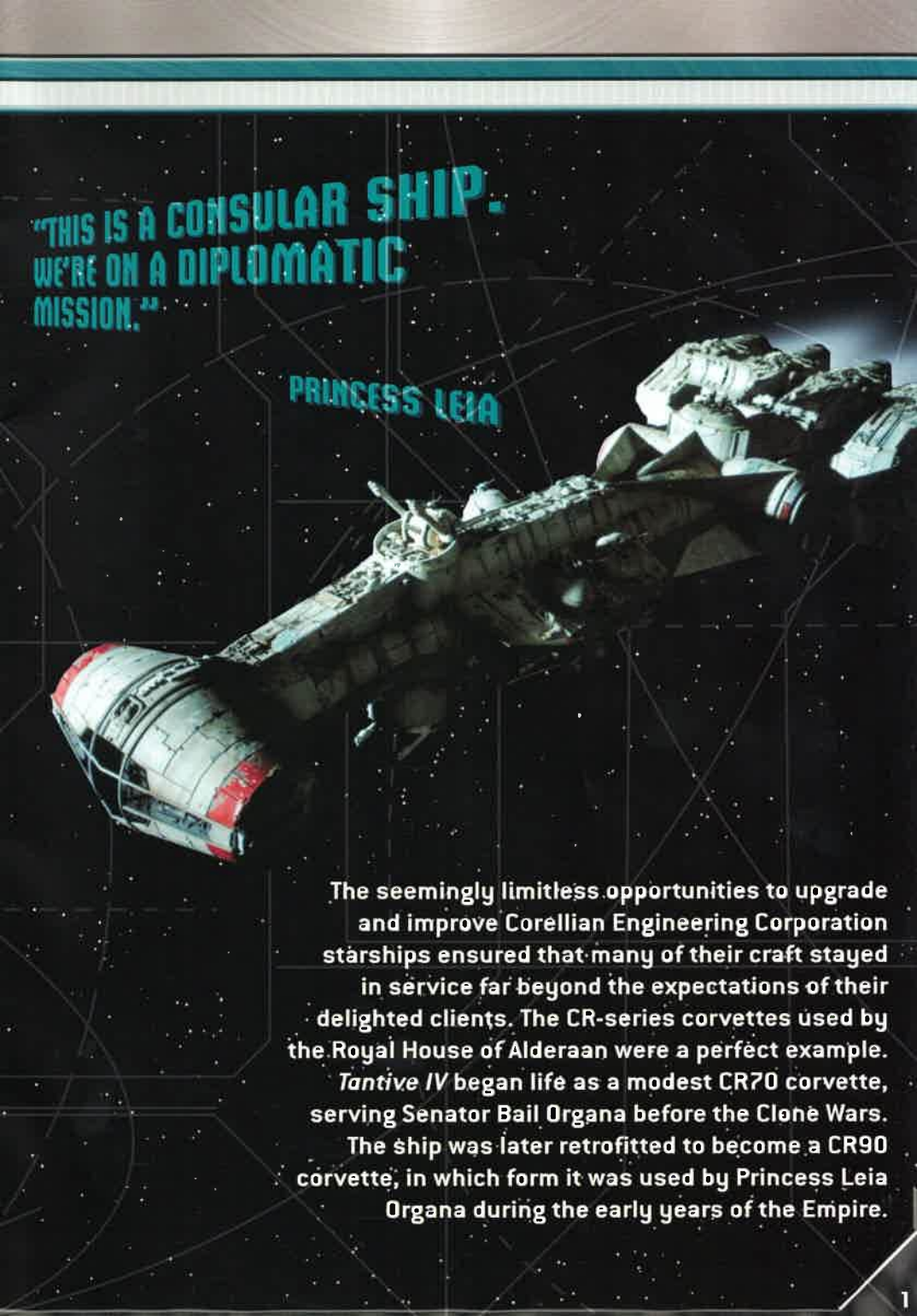
STAR WARS

"THIS IS A CONSULAR SHIP. WE'RE ON A DIPLOMATIC MISSION."

PRINCESS LEIA



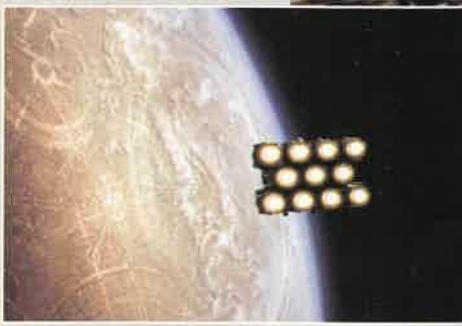
The seemingly limitless opportunities to upgrade and improve Corellian Engineering Corporation starships ensured that many of their craft stayed in service far beyond the expectations of their delighted clients. The CR-series corvettes used by the Royal House of Alderaan were a perfect example. *Tantive IV* began life as a modest CR70 corvette, serving Senator Bail Organa before the Clone Wars. The ship was later retrofitted to become a CR90 corvette, in which form it was used by Princess Leia Organa during the early years of the Empire.

ROYAL SERVICE

THE CORELLIAN CORVETTE *TANTIVE IV*

The CR-series Corellian Engineering Corporation corvettes were built to a standard specification, with clients able to buy one 'off-the-lot' to modify themselves, or request particular additional systems or interior configurations. Such corvettes saw service as everything from troop carriers and cargo haulers to pirate vessels and diplomatic transports.

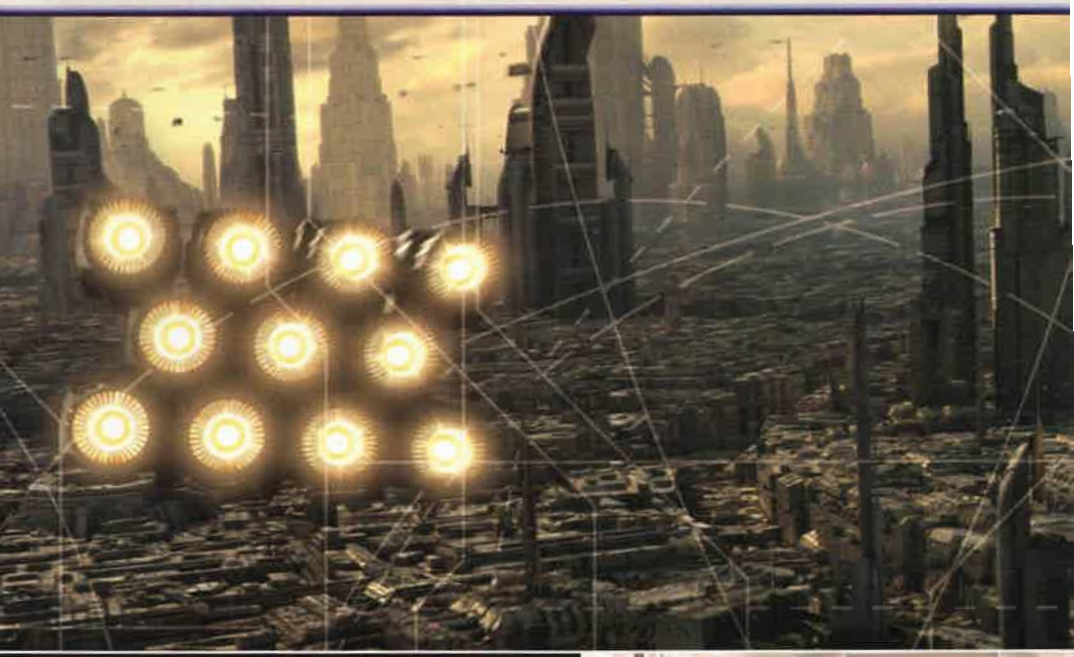
The CR70 corvette *Star of Alderaan* was built a little before the outbreak of the Clone Wars. Fitted out as part of an order placed by the Royal House of Alderaan, it bore the blue livery of that house. Its role was that of a diplomatic vessel, and the *Star* was primarily used by Senator Bail Organa. During a visit by diplomats from the fourth planet of the Tantive system as part of a cultural exchange, the ship was renamed *Tantive IV* to honour the occasion.



Special Equipment

Bail Organa himself stipulated that the *Star of Alderaan* should mount no weapons. In his only concession to the increasingly troubled times, Organa allowed for the two larger escape pods set behind the cockpit module to look like laser cannon turrets. The interior of the main deck of the corvette centred on the conference room, with all corridors curving around it. This suited Bail Organa – the heart of both the ship and its purpose was diplomacy.

At some point after the birth of the Galactic Empire, the *Tantive IV* underwent some considerable modifications. Supervised by Chief Petty Officer Corla Metonae, engineers and technicians used the Corellian Engineering Corporation Vanguard c20 retrofit suite to upgrade the CR70 corvette to a better-armed CR90 vessel. The mock turret escape pods were replaced by two genuine Taim & Bak H9 dual turbolasers. The four 12-man escape



pods, set in pairs on either side of the main body of the ship, were upgraded to feature single-barrel turbolasers that could protect the ship or the free-flying escape pod. In addition, eight smaller, unarmed escape pods were positioned in rows of four projecting slightly. from the hull underneath the armed pods.

Diplomatic Role

The passenger accommodation aboard the *Tantive IV* was upgraded at this time, with the addition of a very luxurious stateroom on the uppermost deck of the ship. This was intended to form a more intimate space for private negotiations than the conference room, but it also served as part of the quarters for the senior member of the diplomatic team.

Shortly before the Battle of Yavin, the senior diplomat who regularly used the *Tantive IV* was Bail Organa's adopted daughter, Princess Leia. She used the corvette both for her diplomatic and senatorial duties, as well as for her more clandestine activities on behalf of the Rebel Alliance. It was during such an operation for the Rebellion that the *Tantive IV* was captured and destroyed by the Empire.

LAST FLIGHT

THE FATE OF *TANTIVE IV*

The humble Corellian corvette *Tantive IV* had played a major role in the early life of Princess Leia Organa, and had been the Princess's Senatorial transport. During Operation Skyhook, the *Tantive IV* was to serve the Princess one last time

When Leia Organa took over from her father as Senator for Alderaan, she inherited the *Tantive IV*. For the next two years, the ship was used for duties ranging from Senatorial transport and missions of mercy to clandestine operations for the emerging Rebellion – including a trip to Kashyyyk that saw the adoption of the crest of the House of Marek as the symbol of the Alliance to Restore the Republic.

Rumours

During a relief mission to Ralltiir aboard her corvette, Leia encountered a wounded Rebel operative who confirmed the existence of a secret Imperial construction project called the Death Star. Leia and the crew of the *Tantive IV* were later tasked with learning more about the super weapon as part of Operation: Skyhook. The ship was sent to Toprawa to intercept a transmission from Rebel agents, and later took on board two other sets of data. The plan had been to pass all the information to the Star Cruiser *Liberty*, but the abrupt arrival of the Star Destroyer *Immortal*

Though the *Tantive IV* was destroyed, events had begun aboard her that culminated in the destruction of the Death Star at the Battle of Yavin.

intervened. *Tantive IV* had become an accidental repository of all the disparate data that could be combined to give a complete technical readout of the Death Star, and was now at great risk.

Final Flight

Pursued by Darth Vader, the corvette headed for Tatooine in an attempt to seek the aid of Obi-Wan Kenobi against the Empire. However, Vader's Star Destroyer *Devastator* intercepted and crippled the *Tantive IV*. Stormtroopers from the 501st Legion stormed the ship, killing many of its defenders and capturing the princess. The data was smuggled off the ship by R2-D2 just in time.

Despite the corvette's diplomatic status, Darth Vader was without mercy. He ordered the *Tantive IV* to be destroyed, along with any crew not taken for further questioning. The vessel's long service to the Royal House of Alderaan ended in a hail of turbolaser fire.

PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA

LEADER OF THE REBELLION

Though her birth world was Polis Massa, Leia Organa would always consider her homeworld to be Alderaan – much as her twin brother thought of his as being Tatooine. As the adopted daughter of Senator Bail and Queen Breha Organa, Leia's early life frequently drew parallels with that of her mother, Padmé Amidala.

Bail Organa and his wife, Queen Breha, made no secret of the fact that Leia had been adopted, but at the same time they made no mention of Leia's true heritage. Jedi Masters Obi-Wan Kenobi and Yoda had made it quite clear that the Emperor and Darth Vader would hunt down the children of Anakin Skywalker should they ever learn that they did not die with Padmé. Leia herself knew nothing of her mother until well into adulthood, save for a single memory – a gift, perhaps, of her latent Force abilities – of a beautiful, kind, sad woman.

Fear The Force

Leia was watched carefully by Bail for any open signs of her Jedi heritage. She exhibited incredible reaction speeds once when very young, saving the life of her carer. Rumours of the incident, spread by the Queen's own sister, led two Imperial Inquisitors to Leia. One, Ferus Olin, was a former Jedi Padawan sent by Obi-Wan Kenobi, and he managed to cover up the incident. Meanwhile, the Queen exiled her sister, Deara Antilles, from the family.

Friends And Enemies

As she grew, Leia was groomed by Bail Organa to succeed him in the Imperial Senate, and to be his royal heir. Her dearest friend from childhood into adult life was Winter, an orphan girl a few years older than herself.

Winter was always the one with the poise and manner of a princess, so was often taken for Leia – who was quite a tomboy in her grubby clothes. Her behaviour sometimes caused problems. Aged 13, Leia soaked a visiting Wilhuff Tarkin with a water balloon, recognising the stern, unpleasant Governor as a symptom of the rot at the heart of the Empire. It was the first of many clashes between Leia and the Empire's leadership.

Bail Organa wisely ensured Leia studied self-defence and marksmanship, as well as history and art, while at university on Alderaan.

PROFILE

Princess Leia

Species
Human

Height
1.56m

Weapon
Blaster pistol

Vehicle
Tantive IV

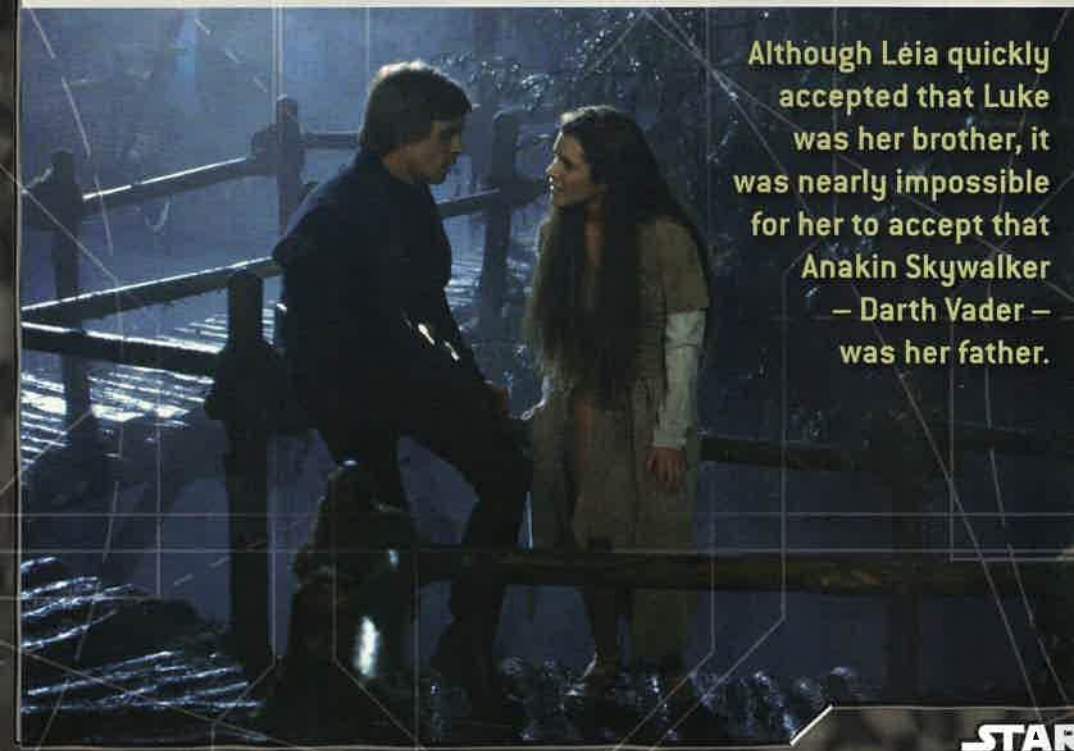
Affiliation
Rebel Alliance

Senator And Princess

Princess Leia was 18 years old when she succeeded Bail Organa as elected Senator for Alderaan, the youngest ever to hold that rank in the Imperial Senate. She was formally presented to Palpatine following her election and was scared by the aura of evil surrounding him. Still, her latent Force abilities went undetected, and the event passed off safely – though the young Senator had already had other less successful run-ins with the Empire. Even by that age, Leia had been held a virtual prisoner on Kashyyyk for her outspoken attacks on the Empire. Already aware of her father's involvement with a number of rebellious Senators, including Mon Mothma of Chandrilla and Garm Bel Iblis of Corellia, Leia was present by hologram at the meeting on Corellia that set the organisation of the Rebel Alliance, and later in person on Kashyyyk at the formal declaration of the Alliance to Restore the Republic.

Rebel Cause

Leia Organa had been a Senator for less than two years when her involvement in Operation: Skyhook – the capturing of the plans to the first Death Star – saw her fall foul of Darth Vader and be formally branded a traitor to the Empire. Rescued from execution onboard the Death Star, Leia was unaware that her saviour, Luke Skywalker, was



Although Leia quickly accepted that Luke was her brother, it was nearly impossible for her to accept that Anakin Skywalker – Darth Vader – was her father.

Commitment

Groomed for the Senate by her adoptive father, and to lead the Rebellion and the New Republic by Mon Mothma, Leia never sought power. However, she gladly fought for justice in any arena – be it political, diplomatic, or in combat.

her twin brother. Then there was the far from simple matter of Corellian scoundrel Han Solo… Along with Han's friend and co-pilot, the Wookiee Chewbacca, and droids C-3PO and R2-D2, Leia, Luke and Han would quickly rise to the top of the Empire's most wanted list.

Family Ties

During her captivity aboard the Death Star, Leia had witnessed the destruction of Alderaan and the death of her adoptive family. Despite this and many other tragedies, Leia found herself drawn to both Luke and Han. Fleeing from a major Alliance defeat on Hoth, Leia was a little shocked to discover she loved Solo. She and Luke remained close, and fought together to find and free Han after he was frozen in carbonite and given to Jabba the Hutt. Events raced on, and soon Leia was involved in the defeat of the Empire at Endor and the first death of the Emperor. She also discovered Luke was her brother and, horrifyingly, that Darth Vader had been her father, Anakin Skywalker. It would take years for her to accept her heritage fully, though she would one day become a Jedi in her own right.

In the years that followed the Battle of Endor, Leia married Han Solo and raised a family. Many more triumphs and tragedies befell Leia Organa Solo, giving a sad truth to something she had written in her diary while still very young: 'The line between the life I want to live and the life I'm expected to live is about as thin as a Hutt after a buffet.'

BAIL ORGANA'S AIRSPEEDER

MODIFIED NARGLATCH XJ-2

A small and proudly independent company operating in the Core Worlds and headquartered on Coruscant, Narglatch AirTech produced expensive luxury airspeeders for the very upper end of the market. Their customers included Senators such as Bail Organa.

One of the key elements that made Narglatch speeders attractive to the holo-stars, aristocrats and Senators of the Old Republic, Galactic Empire and beyond was that the speeders were modified to the specifications of the individual customer by Narglatch technicians. Furthermore, they could be easily modified after purchase while maintaining their luxurious appearance.

Bail Organa – Speeder Mechanic

It is a little-known fact that Bail Organa was a secret speeder-jock at heart. Little else could explain why, after seeing the garish Narglatch XJ-6 shown off by the debauched Senator Simon Greyshade, Organa put in a private order for one of the company's earlier models – a red and silver XJ-2. Shipped to Alderaan, the XJ-2 became the focus of obsessional tinkering that Bail indulged in as only a hobbyist can.

Lifesaver

When Senator Organa found himself spending more and more time on Coruscant, he had his beloved XJ-2 shipped to a garage in his apartments at Alderaan's embassy, Cantham House. The speeder had been registered to one 'Org Banelli', allowing Organa to make excursions off the radar of the increasingly untrustworthy Senate security. This enabled Bail to attend meetings with those Senators who opposed Supreme Chancellor Palpatine, several of whom went on to become leaders of the Rebel Alliance. Organa also flew his XJ-2 to and from the Jedi Temple on the tragic night of the Empire's attack, and used the speeder in the rescue of Jedi Master Yoda after a failed attempt on the life of the Emperor.

The XJ-2 went back with Bail Organa to Alderaan where it lay in a garage until given to his adopted daughter, Leia, as a birthday present.

Bail's Airspeeder PROFILE

Type
Luxury airspeeder

Model
Narglatch XJ-2 airspeeder

Manufacturer
Custom special (from a Narglatch AirTech kit)

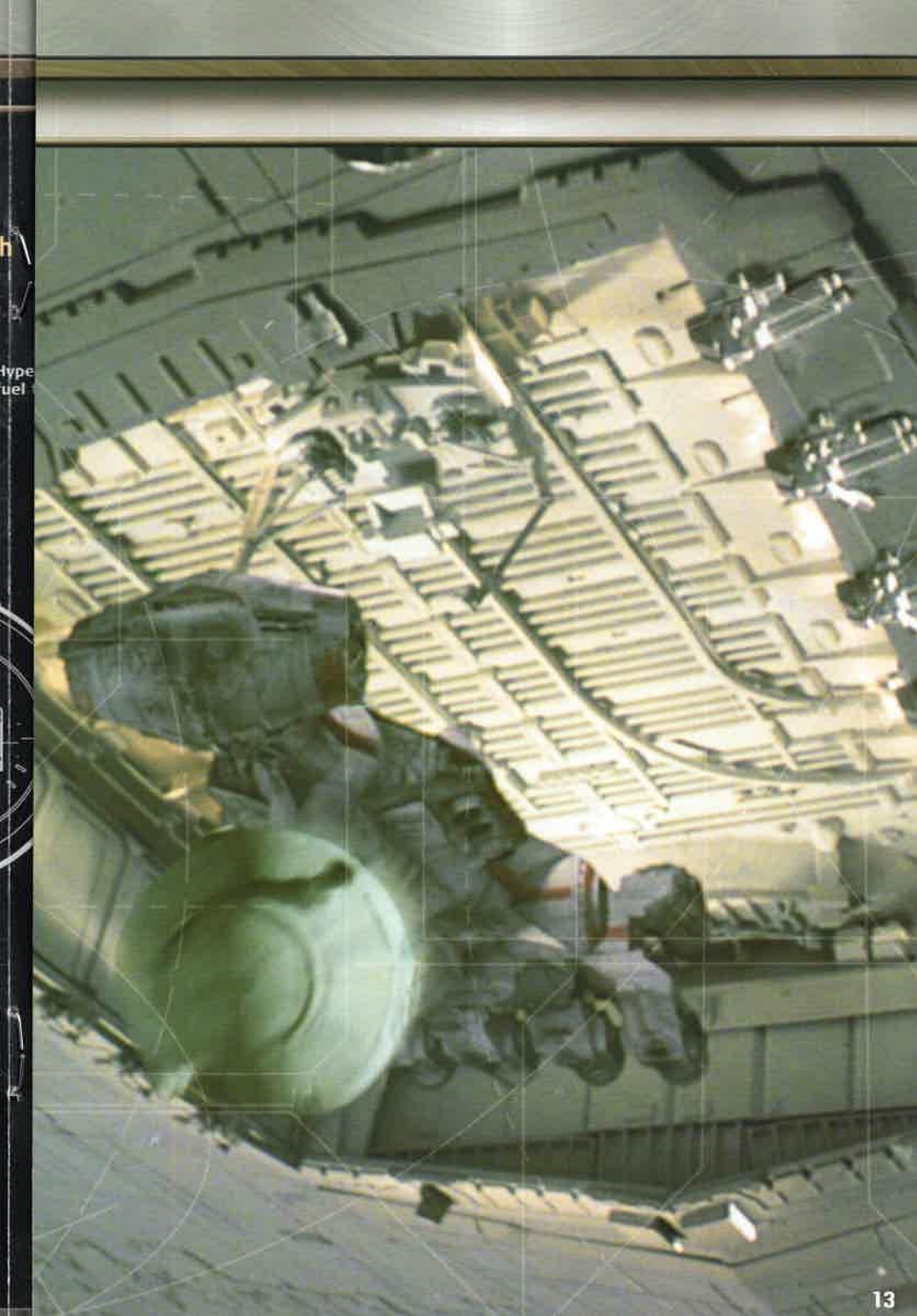
Size
5.9 m long

Homeworld
Alderaan

TANTIVE IV

REBEL ALLIANCE BLOCKADE RUNNER

A modest vessel, the Corellian corvette *Tantive IV* – converted from a CR70 to a CR90 – played an unusually important role in securing peace and justice in the galaxy. It transported the infant twins Luke and Leia to safety, as well as Jedi Knights Obi-Wan Kenobi and Yoda, and would later carry the Death Star plans to Tatooine, ensuring the eventual destruction of the station.



TANTIVE IV

Type
Multi-role corvette

Model
CR70 upgraded to CR90

Manufacturer
Corellian Engineering Corporation

Size
125m long

Maximum Acceleration
2,100 G

Maximum Speed
950km/h (atmosphere)

Hyperdrive
Class 2.0 CEC subspace hyperdrive

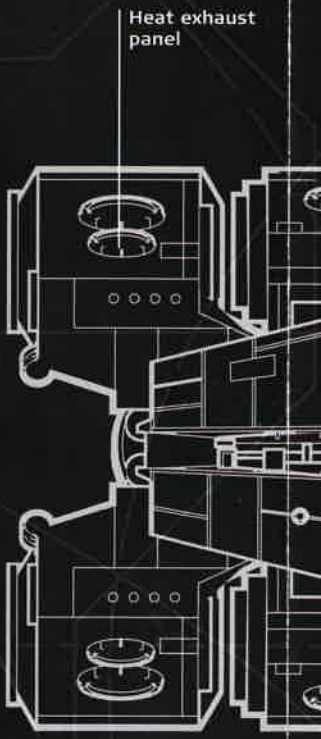
Engines
11x Girodyne Ter58 ion turbine engines

Weapons
2x Taim & Bak H9 dual turbolasers, 4x Taim & Bak H9 single turbolasers (mounted on escape pods)

Crew & Passengers
8 officers, 38 crewmen, 39 diplomatic personnel

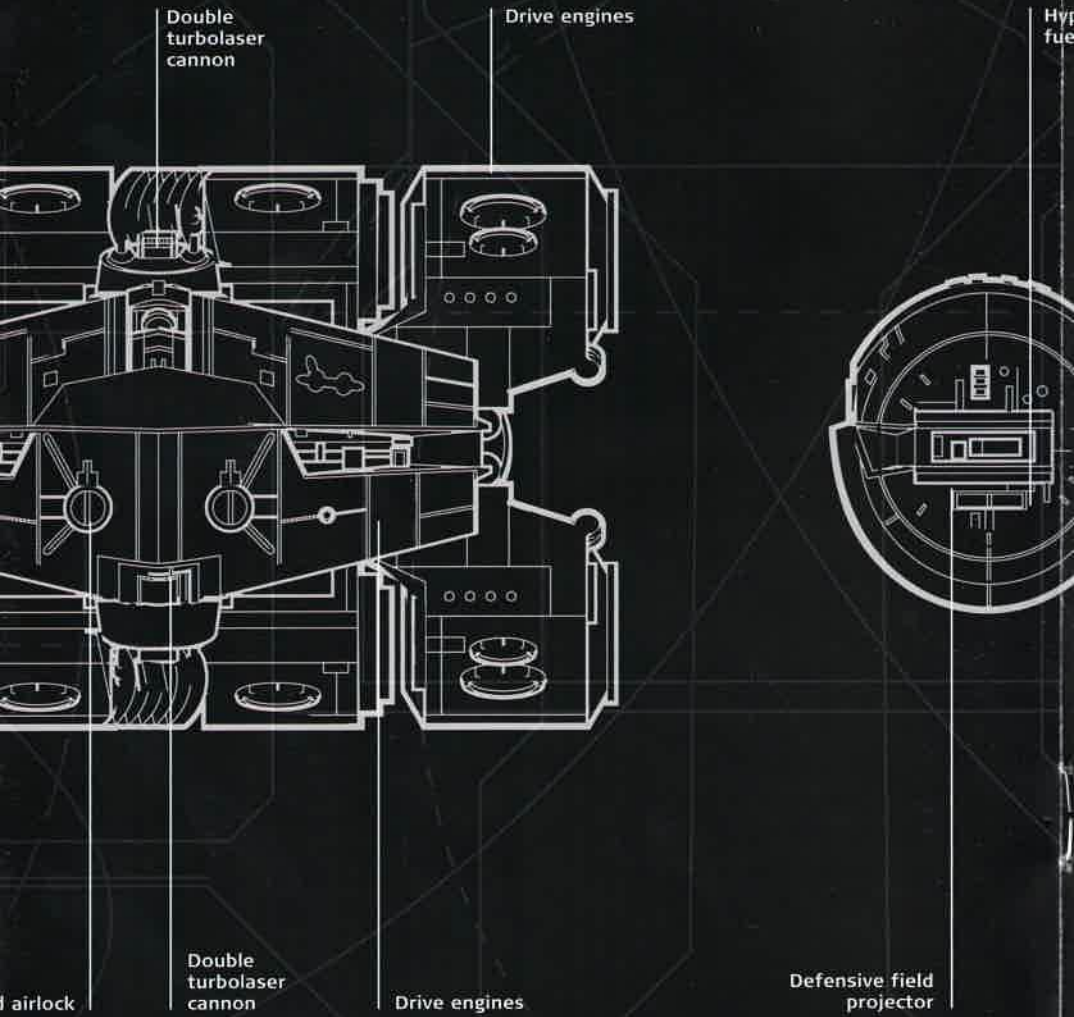
Affiliation
Royal House of Alderaan

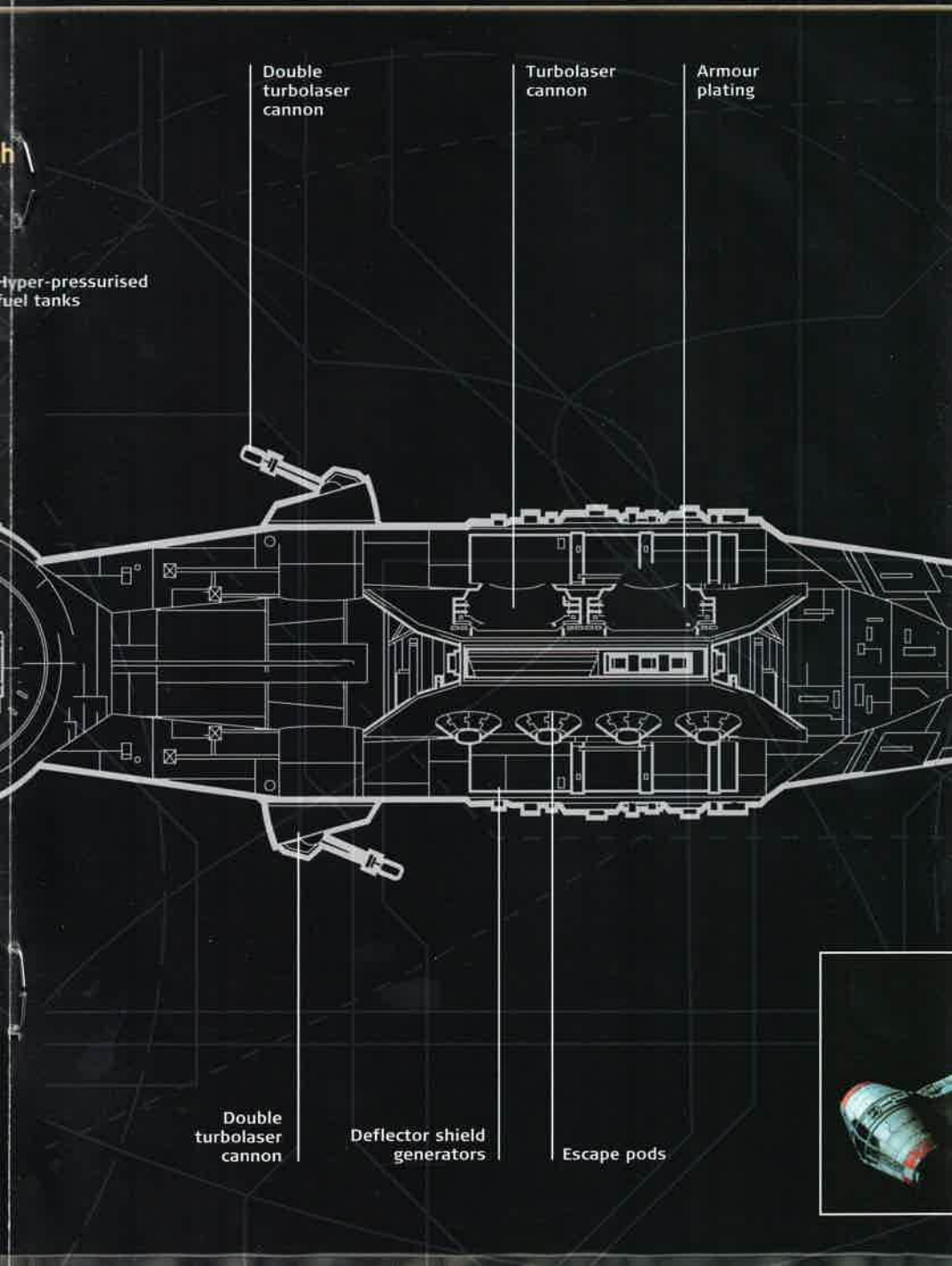
The CR-series Corellia
series was created so
Vanguard c20, was rel
relatively slow in hyp
gained them the nickn

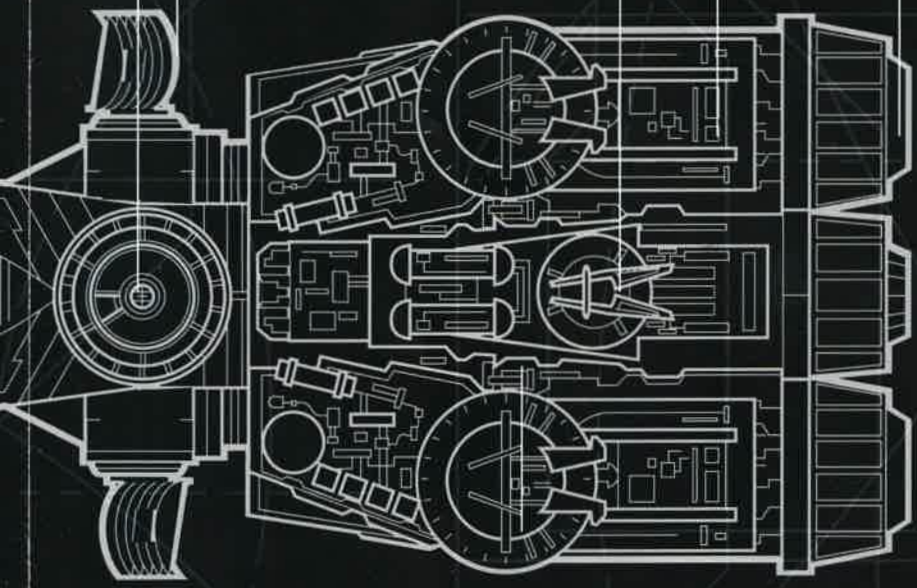


Foward

an corvettes were developed as multi-role small capital ships. The CR90
ome 50 years before the Battle of Yavin and an upgrade suite, the CEC
eleased to allow older CR-series craft to be brought up to specification. Though
perspace, their sublight acceleration and relatively good manoeuvrability
name 'Blockade Runner' with smugglers, pirates and rebel groups.




Double turbolaser cannon
Turbolaser cannon
Armour plating
Hyper-pressurised fuel tanks
Double turbolaser cannon
Deflector shield generators
Escape pods



Armaments

The *Tantive IV* carried the standard number of weapons for the CR90 corvettes, though the more heavily armed versions could mount eight turbolasers, six laser cannons and four ion cannons. Unfortunately, the huge engines created a blind spot for gunners, and the placement of the shield projectors meant that overloads could damage the main reactors, forcing them to shut down.

BAIL ORGANA

PASSIONATE AND PRINCIPLED POLITICIAN

One of the most influential politicians of his generation, 'His Serene Highness, Prince Bail Organa, First Chairman and Viceroy of Alderaan' was Bail's full title, and one that he rarely used. That he was a Senator representing his people mattered to him far more.

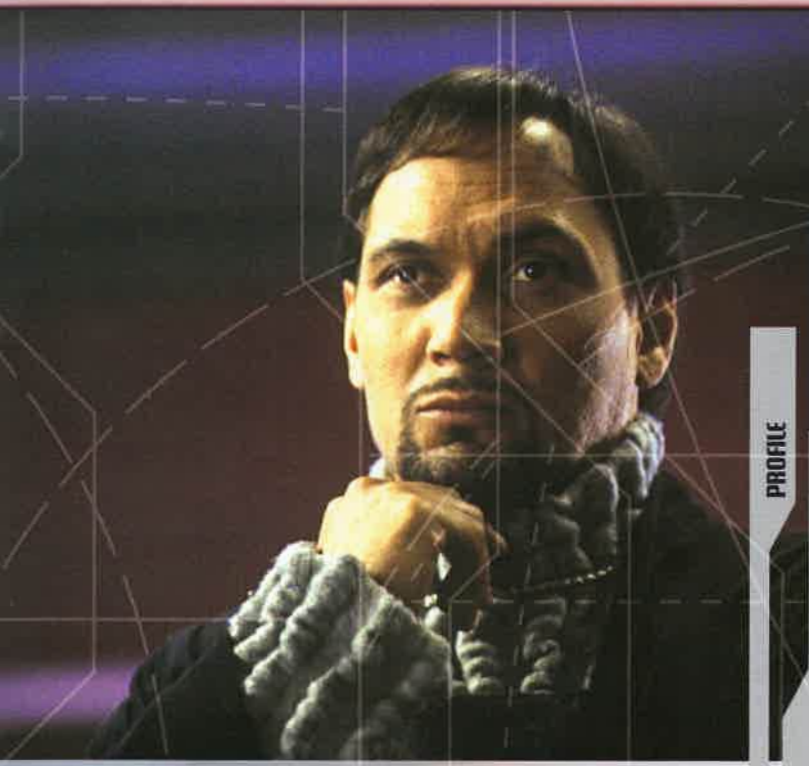
Bail Prestor Organa, Prince Consort to Queen Breha Organa, came late to the Senate, despite training from youth to take up such a position. Fully aware of the responsibilities involved, it was the influence of friends such as Finis Valorum that convinced Bail he would succeed. He quickly became a rallying point for those senators weary of the corruption that infected the Senate and gained the trust of the new Chancellor – Palpatine of Naboo. Bail Organa and many others were taken in by Palpatine, the public persona of Sith Lord Darth Sidious. Organa and his Senatorial allies, who included Padmé Amidala, Garm Bel Iblis and Mon Mothma, championed Palpatine's rise to power, seeing a hope for democracy.

Warrior Senator

The web woven by the Sith was a subtle and complex one. As the Separatist Crisis exploded into the Clone Wars, Bail and others realised their mistake too late. Now Organa and his allies formed the Delegation of 2000 to try to oppose Supreme Chancellor Palpatine's increasing powers.

The Clone Wars often saw Organa in very real danger – occasionally even in actual combat. It was during this time that he became friends with Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi, something that would become of huge significance in the future. Even as Organa and his allies began discussing Rebellion, the Sith moved faster. The Jedi and the Republic fell and the Empire rose in their place.

The Jedi children of Padmé and Anakin were hidden as the last Jedi Masters went into hiding. Bail and his wife raised one of those children, Leia, as their own daughter, and Senator Organa kept a low profile while he and his allies plotted the establishment of the Rebel Alliance. In time, Princess Leia joined her adoptive father and would carry on Bail Organa's proud legacy after he was killed when the Death Star destroyed Alderaan.



PROFILE

Bail Organa

Homeworld

Alderaan

Species

Human

Height

1.91m

Vehicle

Tantive IV

Affiliation

Galactic Republic, Galactic Senate

Adoptive father

When Kenobi's apprentice Anakin Skywalker, succumbed to the dark side, Organa hid one of Skywalker's twin offspring in the high court of Alderaan. Bail and his wife had been looking to adopt a child, and he came to raise and love young Leia Organa as his own child.

ALDERAAN

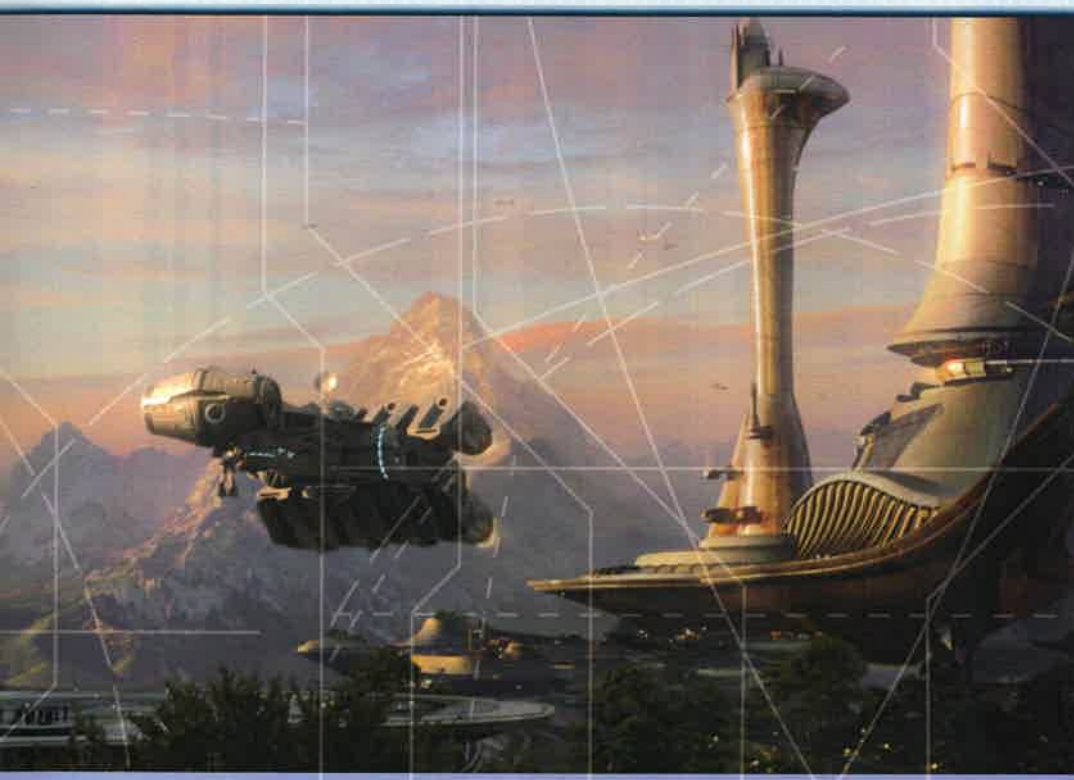
A PEACEFUL WORLD

In the midst of the Core Worlds is an asteroid field all that remains of the once beautiful planet of Alderaan now known as 'The Graveyard' – it was a place of pilgrimage for sorrowful Alderaanians who had survived the destruction of their peaceful world by the first Death Star.

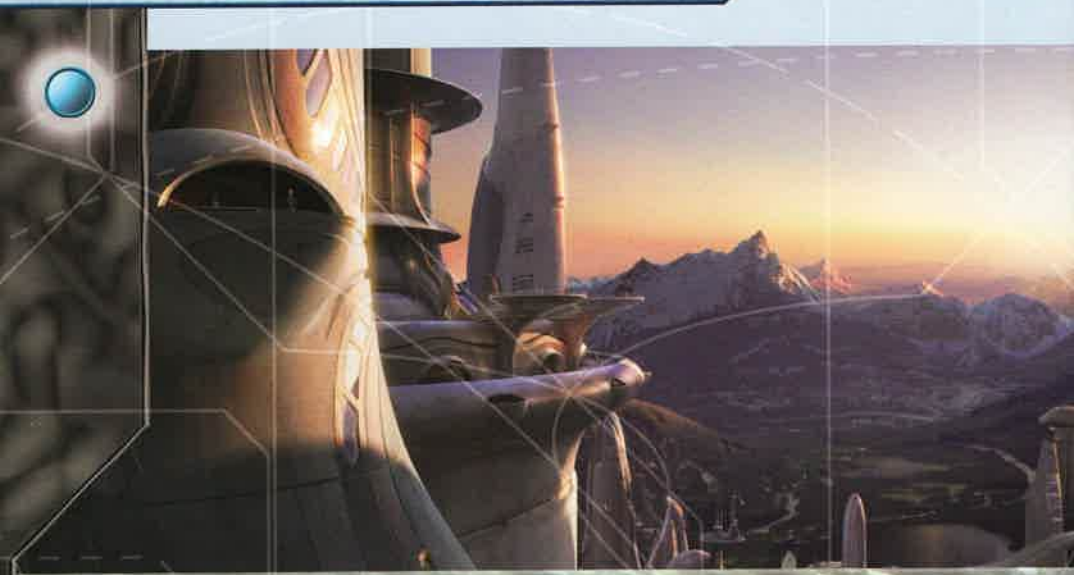
Alderaan was colonised by humans from Coruscant 27,500 years before the Battle of Yavin. Those first colonists, seeking to build a civilisation in harmony with the natural surroundings, were baffled and amazed by the hive structures they found on the planet. These bore silent witness to a great civilisation many thousands of years lost. They could not have known that the insectoid Killiks had been taken from the planet by the mysterious and powerful Celestials because they had exhausted the planet's natural resources. Importing the resources they needed, the colonists were careful and patient in ensuring their impact on Alderaan was kept to a minimum. As a result, the planet became known as the Shining Star of the Core Worlds, in contrast to the Scintillating Jewel that was Coruscant and its planet-wide cityscape.

Far-Reaching Influence

Some 2,500 years after it was colonised, Alderaan became one of the Core Founders of the Galactic Republic. Along with Coruscant, the capital world of the Republic, Alderaan became a starting point for many hyperspace routes as the galaxy was opened up by near-suicidally daring explorers. The University of Alderaan in the capital Aldera, itself built on an island in a picturesque caldera, became a recognised centre of educational excellence that also spread out across the galaxy, including an important centre of political studies on Coruscant. Alderaan's influence was far-reaching, but so was its fauna, as Alderaan was the homeworld of the bovine nerfs, as well as the graceful thranta flyers that were later exported to the likes of Bespin. Alderaanian spices, grains and other produce became part of the staple diet of the galaxy. Such exports meant that the loss of Alderaan itself was tempered by the survival of so much of its flora and fauna.



During the Clone Wars, General Grievous himself led an attack on Alderaan because it had chosen to shelter so many refugees from the Separatist Crisis.



Alderaan was a beautiful world of grasslands, large inland seas, lakes and mountains.

Unarmed World

After the horrors of the Clone Wars, Alderaan sought to lead by example – much to the anger of the Empire's leaders. The planet unilaterally disarmed, with all of its weapons of war placed aboard a frigate called *Another Chance*. It was sent into hyperspace, its systems automated, to be recalled if needed by the High Council. Three additional automated warships were sent with the armoury to protect it. Ultimately, *Another Chance* and its cargo were recovered after the loss of Alderaan, and the weapons were given to the Rebel Alliance.

An Enlightened Monarchy

Alderaan was a democratic society, with a hereditary monarchy but an elected High Council. This latter body was led by the Vizier, the Alderaanian equivalent of prime minister, who was the principal advisor to the monarch. Despite the monarch having authority over the High Council, the king or queen was no distant, detached ruler. Alderaanian tradition saw the ruler fully engaged in politics and the governance of the planet through the High Council. Additionally, it was understood that the monarch would represent Alderaan in the Galactic Senate.

The High Council had a degree of influence over the great families of Alderaan, the most influential being the House of Organa and the House of Antilles. Some 40 years before its destruction, Alderaan was wracked by the very passionate but gentlemanly Ascendancy Contention. The reigning monarch had passed away without issue, and the government was unable to decide – even after three votes – who it was who would succeed. The Galactic Senate was brought in to mediate. Senior Jedi Watchman, Jorus C'baoth, was part of the Senate delegation that finally chose House Organa. It was further declared that a political marriage be arranged to more closely ally the great Houses. As a happy result of this, Bail Organa married Breha Antilles – something that suited the young couple very well.

THE ORGANAS' ORIGINS

STORY DRAFTS

Though there are decades between their appearances on film, the characters of Bail and Leia Organa appeared in one form or another in the very earliest drafts of the *Star Wars* story. Names swapped back and forward and ages changed, before the characters became the Prince and Princess we know.

In the development of Princess Leia, it's easy to see parallels with the future development of Padmé Amidala. In the first rough draft of the story from 1974, Leia is called Zara, and is the iron-willed 14-year-old daughter of King Kayos and Queen Breha of the planet Aquilae. Interestingly, Leia has two brothers – Biggs and Windom, whose names would eventually transfer to the childhood friends of Luke Skywalker.

In the second draft of the story, Leia's role is largely given to a male Jedi called Deak Starkiller. By the third draft, the Princess Leia we recognise is beginning to take shape. Names jump about in some of the early synopses. With Alderaan being the capital world of the Empire, Leia Antilles is from the planet Organa Major, and her father is Bail Antilles. The fourth draft of the story swapped names about, and now Leia and Bail Organa come from the planet Alderaan.

However, Bail Antilles was to survive as Leia's father a little longer, when he was mentioned in the Marvel *Star Wars* comics in 1977. In 1981, the radio adaptation of Episode IV featured Bail Organa in the second episode, *Points of Origin*.

Simple, Really

The confusion over the Bail Antilles/Bail Organa identity was finally laid to rest with the release of Episode II, but not before it was added to, thanks to some footage cut from Episode I, where Captain Panaka mentions a Bail Antilles, the Senate

Leia's Brothers

The early draft of *Star Wars* that established Leia Organa as having two brothers stuck in George Lucas' mind for some time. In 1977, while writing character backgrounds for licensees, Lucas stated that Leia had several brothers and did not know whether any of her family had perhaps escaped the destruction of Alderaan.

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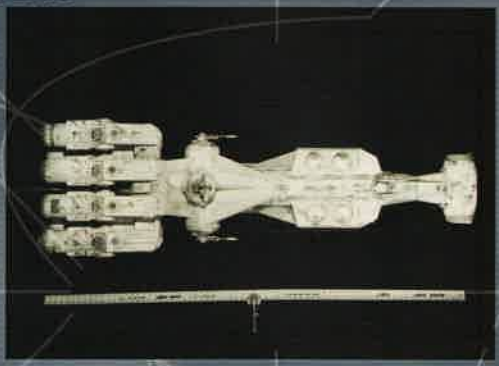
representative for Alderaan, as a possible successor to the Senate's Chancellor Valorum.

Meanwhile, Irish actor Adrian Dunbar was cast to play Bail Organa in a scene where he was to second Padmé's vote of no confidence in Valorum. Both characters were to appear in Episode I, but with the Senate scene dropped, Bail Organa was recast for Episode II, with Jimmy Smits playing Bail Organa. Dunbar's character has since been set in stone as Bail Antilles, who was succeeded in the Senate by Bail Organa.

TANTIVE IV

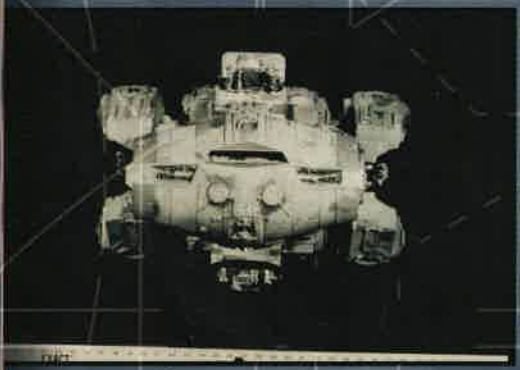
MOVIE ICON

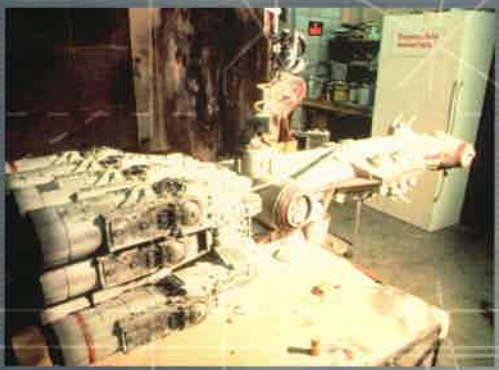
CREATING THE CORELLIAN CORVETTE



1 The *Falcon* only took its final shape after a long, thin design was rejected for being too similar to the *Eagle* spaceship from the TV series *Space: 1999*.

2 Instead, the modified *Falcon* model became the basis for the *Tantive IV*, which is why a ship with such a short screen time had such a detailed miniature.



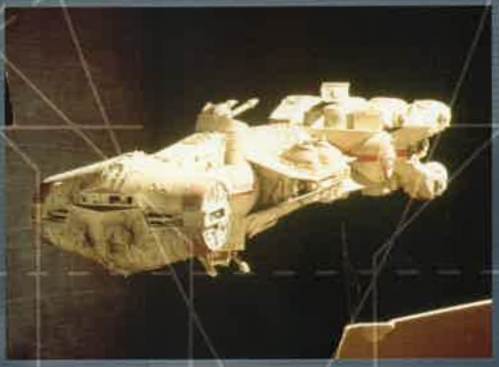


5 A well-known in-joke is that the model-makers put two posters in *Tantive IV*'s cockpit – a tiny *Playboy* centrefold and an early poster for the film.

6 Episode III's *Tantive IV* is a digital model, differing sufficiently from the ship in Episode IV for the craft to be declared an earlier model of the corvette.

The *Tantive IV* holds a special place in the hearts of *Star Wars* fans. It was, of course, the very first starship seen in Episode IV during an opening sequence that quickly became an iconic (and often copied) moment in cinema history.

3 Ironically, the Blockade Runner miniature, at 1.94m long, is far larger than the model of the pursuing Star Destroyer.



4 The original, cylindrical cockpit from the time when the miniature was to be the *Millennium Falcon* was replaced with this 'hammerhead' design.

7 The design of the Blockade Runner was a huge influence on the Republic Cruiser seen at the start of Episode I.

8 The *Tantive IV* from Episode II sports the official colours of the House of Organa with which the vessel was originally finished.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 In the very first draft of ***A New Hope***, how old was Princess Leia?

2 Who is this bounty hunter?

3 When did Alderaan first appear in the development of ***Star Wars: A New Hope***?

ANSWERS:

1. The character who would become Leia was 14 years old – the same age as Queen Amidala in Episode I.

2. This is Princess Leia in the guise of the bounty hunter Boushh. She wore the outfit to infiltrate Jabba the Hutt's Palace to rescue Han Solo.

3. Alderaan appears in George Lucas' first-ever handwritten story draft of *Star Wars* from 1973. Then, it was the capital world of the Galactic Empire.

K

K-3PO

Droid
Episode V

Although officious and slightly dull, this old white 3PO unit was one of the most valued droids in service to the Rebel Alliance. Created during the Old Republic, K-3PO was owned by Arhul Narra. Narra had fought on the side of the Galactic Republic during the Clone Wars, and had used K-3PO as a walking repository for his important files. After the rise of the Empire, Narra soon joined the Rebellion. K-3PO now became a store for vital shielded files, including a great deal of tactical military information. There was so much data that K-3PO began to 'leak'. After an off-hand tactical comment from the droid gave the Alliance victory that Ton-Falk, Narra demanded K-3PO become one of the 'recognised' droids in the Alliance – to be respected as an individual in his own right. Narra was killed just before the Battle of Hoth, and K-3PO was destroyed during the Imperial assault. However, K-3PO's memory files and some of its circuitry became an integral part of M-3PO, the quartermaster droid for Rogue Squadron during the New Republic years.

Kaadu

Creature
Episode I

For many Naboo, the bipedal reptavian kaadu were inextricably linked with the Gungan people who domesticated the kaadu many thousands of years before, using them as mounts and beasts of burden. Powerful swimmers, kaadu had the ability to hold their breaths for extended periods of time, making them ideal for the Gungans. As an unburdened kaadu could run in excess of 80 km/h, though not for too long, the Gungans used the beasts as war mounts and for patrolling their underwater cities and the swamps that concealed them. Kaadu laid eggs in clutches of between 100 and 250, making them an excellent food resource too.

Kir Kanos

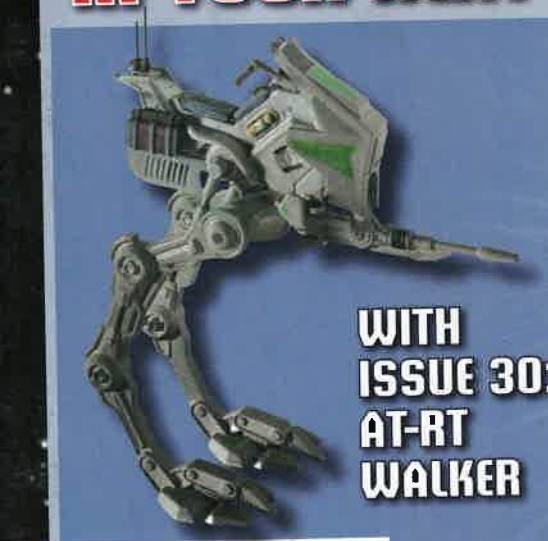
Character
Expanded Universe

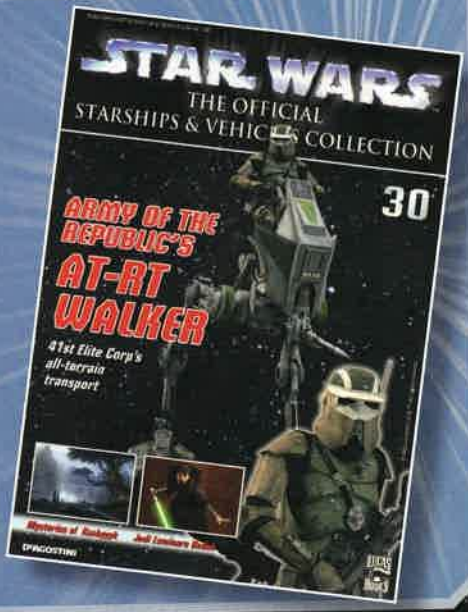
Kir Kanos was an Imperial stormtrooper whose loyalty to the Empire, abilities and service record saw him transferred for training to enter the Emperor's Royal Guard. Kanos was one of only a handful of the 42 initiates to survive to the final test. Fighting over a fathomless pit called the Squall, Kanos killed his friend, Lemmet Tauk, winning a place as a guard and the thanks of the Emperor. When he moved to mourn his friend, Darth Vader criticised Kanos and sliced his helmet in two with his lightsaber, leaving a permanent scar. On the second and final death of the Emperor at Byss, Kanos and around 20 surviving guards learned that one of their number, Carnor Jax, had betrayed the Emperor. After an attack by stormtroopers loyal to Jax, only Kir Kanos survived. He eventually tracked down and killed Jax, but believed Luke Skywalker had killed Palpatine, and swore one day to avenge his Emperor.

IN THIS ISSUE

WITH ISSUE 29:
REBEL BLOCKADE
RUNNER *TANTIVE IV*

IN YOUR NEXT ISSUE





WITH
ISSUE 30:
AT-RT
WALKER

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